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Marginal Column

By GEORGE LENOVO

MR. John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, appeared in an unusually unexcitable mood at his press conference on Tuesday. Questioned by reporters regarding the significance of the latest Vietnamese offensive in Indo-China, which has brought Ho Chi Minh's forces to the frontiers of neighboring Thailand for the first time, the Secretary coolly replied that the affair had been greatly exaggerated in the American press, that there is no need to get panicky, and that the significance attached to the operation appeared to have been magnified beyond its true proportions for political motives. Asked whether he could point out launching site of this high into the air, and more specifically whether the take-off was from France or Indo-China, Mr. Dulles replied that he did not know, but that he was accustomed to hearing the Secretary of State take every opportunity of stressing the danger of Communist aggression in South East Asia, his confidence and restraint on this occasion would seem to be the product either of superior knowledge or political shrewdness.

AND at the other end of the world, as though motivated by some globe-girdling gossamer thread, the reactions of the Kingdom of Thailand were hardly less placid. Although the news of the Vietnamese offensive declared a state of emergency in nine border towns and sent reinforcements to the Mekong River, which divides its realm from Indo-China, Government spokesmen declared that they had no intention of allowing the number of Vietnamese troops involved did not indicate any danger, and that any attempt to erect the border as a barrier to the flow of goods and people, this is all the more interesting when it is remembered that the Government of Thailand, on the one hand, and the French, on the other, have been at each other's throats since the latter's first incursion in Laos early this year, was prompted to ring an alarm at the United Nations.

MR. Dulles' remark that the French press did not make much of the Vietnamese drive as did American newspapers should be viewed in its right perspective, for American papers are generally inclined to blareney better and blarney headlines than are rolled off by rotary presses in other parts of the world. In fact, the American press was quite sufficiently stimulated. Leftist papers saw in the intensified fighting a rising crescendo of the French drive in Vietnam, while rightist newspapers took the opportunity of stressing that France had made enough sacrifices for the common cause, that it was high time for its Western allies to step into the fray, one way or another, and to share the burden, and that a Vietnamese victory in Indo-China would spell the doom of South-East Asia. In Saigon, meanwhile, the American press has been denied reports that the two American divisions which it is contemplated to withdraw from Korea, would come to the assistance of the French in Indo-China.

THE untroubled attitude of the American Secretary of State and the animation of the press are clearly disparate. After duly discounting the fact that papers must be sold, and that the advent of Christmas, however welcome, was rather anticipated and therefore not NEWS, one is still tempted to wonder whether the explanation of this disparity other than a devotion to sensationalism on the part of the press. It then occurs that the month of January in Paris, Mr. Dulles warned France that the United States will be faced with an "agonizing reappraisal of its foreign aid programme if the European Defence Community treaty is not ratified. It seems rather clear that Mr. Dulles meant that the United States would take upon itself only the "reappraisal" while the "agonizing" would have to be done by others.

Jerusalem, December 30, 1953.

TERRORIST TOLL
RABAT, Wednesday (Reuters).—Casualties caused by terrorist outrages in Morocco since the ex-Sultan was deposed last August total 58 dead and 110 wounded, it was announced here officially today.

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Jewish Agency Budget Passed Unanimously

The Zionist General Council, meeting in Jerusalem, last night approved unanimously the Jewish Agency budget of IL.116.8m. for the year 5714 (1953-54). The draft budget was presented to the Council last week by Dr. Giora Josephthal, the Agency Treasurer.

The Council's decision on the budget is a landmark in the history of the Jewish Agency, which has brought to the forefront of the Jewish community the issue of the financial support of the Jewish Agency. The Council's decision is a landmark in the history of the Jewish Agency, which has brought to the forefront of the Jewish community the issue of the financial support of the Jewish Agency. The Council's decision is a landmark in the history of the Jewish Agency, which has brought to the forefront of the Jewish community the issue of the financial support of the Jewish Agency.

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MUD IN YOUR EYE
We have not yet met anybody who knows the origin of this mud. Have you?
But we do know that any tooth will be a source of pain if followed by a glass of red Pommery or with Pommery—choice water from the old cellars of Rishon Le-Zion and Zichron Ya'akov, adding special goodness to your dinner.

West Confident Its Jordan River Motion to Pass

By JEROME SEEL LURIE, Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—It's all over except for the vote. The Americans are confident that they will get seven or eight votes for the Jordan River motion on the Israeli-Jordanian River Jordan controversy from the new Security Council next month.

The Syrian demand that its content be required before Israel is permitted to resume its hydro-electric project on the Jordan River is not supported by any member of next year's Council except Russia, China, and the Lebanon.

Yesterday was the last chance the Arabs had to ask for a vote from the present Council in support of their position, but they passed it by, thus admitting defeat.

It is not believed that Russia will vote for the Three Power resolution, but they probably will vote for the resolution and the Three Power explanation.

There was again a difference between the impression made by Mr. Vysshinsky in Russian and in the English translation. The New York Times report this morning seems convinced that Russia will vote for the resolution, but all other reports say that Russia will not support such a measure.

Mr. Charles Malik, Lebanon's Permanent Delegate to the U.N., was overheard to grumble to friends that the final vote against the Arab side would be a month under his Presidency, which won't do him any good at home.

(Leader — Page 4)

Danube Waterway Now Open to All Nations

BERLIN, Wednesday (Reuters).—The Danube is now open as an international waterway to shipping of all countries in the world, Mr. Dragovic, new Secretary of the Danube Commission, said here today.

Mr. Djuric, a Yugoslav foreign office official, told right correspondents here that technical conditions now exist for a considerable increase in trade along the river.

When trade with the Soviet bloc would increase was, however, a political matter outside the Commission's competence. He said that in principle his country thought that Germany should be included in the Danube Commission. But the practical question of German participation is linked with a number of other problems — for example, whether it should be East or West Germany.

Italy, Yugoslavia Extend Trade Pact

ROME, Wednesday (UP).—The Foreign Ministry tonight announced a one-year extension of Italy's trade agreement with Yugoslavia in a new move to smooth over waters ruffled by the two nations' bitter dispute over Trieste.

The announcement said that the new agreement, Italy will import from Yugoslavia 3,000 tons of cellulose, a product which can be used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

Mulki Announces Flat Rejection of Talks

The official Jordan reply to U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld regarding Jordan talks under Article XII of the General Armistice Agreement is to be sent today, "Talaat" new Secretary of the Jordanian National Guard, reported yesterday, quoting official Amman circles. The reply is expected to be a flat rejection of the talks.

ANA reports that Jordan Premier Hashim al-Majida said yesterday in Beirut, "We will tell the U.N. that we are not obeying its orders which call for talks. We take this step to defend our right to live. Our rejection will be polite and will not constitute a criminal act against any one."

Perhaps the U.N. should call on Israel to consider her barbaric violations of U.N. resolutions before we are asked to consider a step that is illogical and unjust, Mulki stated.

Egypt Consulting On 'New' Foreign Policy

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters).—The Egyptian Government has summoned to Cairo its Ambassadors to India, Pakistan and Russia "for consultation on Egypt's new foreign policy," Cairo Radio announced today.

The radio said that Egypt's new foreign policy was the subject of "important consultations held today." The main points of these consultations were listed by the radio as dealing with the two camps, the East and the West.

American efforts to create a new pact in the Middle East, in view of the still-born Arab League, which would incorporate several countries of the Arab-Asian bloc.

Israel 'Lying' Says Jordan Officer

Major Mohammed Itahak, Acting Jordan senior delegate to the Israel-Jordan Armistice Commission, said today that Israel's claim that Jordanians had killed an Israeli soldier near Budrus, in the Lydda area, on Monday was pure "fabrication," "A-Diffa," the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

Major Itahak was quoted as saying that Jordan knew nothing of the incident, and that Israel had "failed to supply proof." Jordan is aware, however, that the Israeli Defence Forces had held large-scale manoeuvres in the area shortly before the alleged incident, he stated.

A U.N. source said that yesterday's emergency session of the Israeli-Jordan Armistice Commission, called to discuss the Budrus affair, again postponed action as the U.N. investigation is still incomplete.

Question of US Aid to Egypt Under Study

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP).—State Department spokesman Henry Strydom said today that the "whole question of aid to Egypt has been under continuous examination here at the State Department since the recent Egyptian coup."

He was commenting on a London report to the effect that the British are concerned that the U.S. might soon announce a program of military aid to Egypt, which would be a major step in the country's negotiations with Britain on the Suez dispute.

Mr. Strydom declined to elaborate on his statement except to add that Egypt is already receiving assistance under a program of military aid for which the U.S. has earmarked about \$10m. during the current fiscal year which ends next June 30. This aid is designed to assist in agricultural improvements and other projects.

The New York Times reported today that British has been told by high American negotiators that only the prospect of an early British evacuation of the Suez Canal zone would lead to a substantial American military and economic aid, could guarantee the continuation of U.N. negotiations before we are asked to consider a step that is illogical and unjust, Mulki stated.

Egypt Soon Able to Supply Arms to Arab States

DAMASCUS, Wednesday (AFP).—Egypt's war industry can meet her requirements in arms and ammunition and will soon be in a position to supply the needs of the other Arab countries, Egyptian Ambassador General Ali Nagib, brother of the President, said here on the occasion of the opening of the Egyptian-Syrian Club.

Nagib stated that this is one of the national aims Egypt is trying to accomplish in order to put an end to the difficulties created for the arming of Arab countries by the armament companies and the imperialist powers.

First Korean DP's To Go Home in March

PANMUNJOM, Wednesday (Reuters).—The U.N. Command and Communist leaders here today agreed on March 1 as the date on which civilian displaced persons may start crossing the demilitarized zone to return to their home areas from which they have been isolated.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of two officers from each side charged with assisting the return of displaced civilians. The Military Armistice Commission said that this committee had decided that not more than 100 persons of Korean and foreign nationalities will be exchanged in groups of 50 each day.

India Denies Secret Pact with USSR, China

NEW DELHI, Wednesday (UP).—An official spokesman said today that press reports that India had entered into secret defence pacts with Soviet Russia and China were "entirely without foundation and totally false."

"India has no military or defence pact, secret or otherwise, with Russia, China or any other country in the world, nor is it her intention to conclude such a pact in the near future," the spokesman said. "India's policy of opposition to such pacts is well known and has been declared time and time again."

Two days before the exchange starts, both Commands will recall the number of displaced persons held by them. The Military Armistice Commission will set a date for the end of the exchange.

French Fear Vietminh Drive Along Red River

PARIS, Wednesday (Reuters).—Vietnam units today signifi-

cantly stepped up their offensive activities against the vital Red River delta and other French positions in northern Indo-China, while working time in their spectacular Laos assault.

French commands made news out north from the new Mekong River defence line based on some airfield once again failed as an early thrust of the Vietminh drive which reached Thakhek on the Mekong River last week-end.

French military quarters are increasingly inclined to believe that the Vietminh drive from the China Sea to the Mekong River was a mere feint to mask the main blow of their winter offensive.

Military observers here consider it significant that some of the 110,000 Vietminh massed around and inside the Red River Delta in northern Indo-China should have intensified their attacks during the past 24 hours.

At the same time, the French High Command announced that the Vietminh has tightened their grip on the besieged French fortress of Dien Bien Phu, the last main French citadel in the country since the recent evacuation of Laichau. Reinforcements were being rushed in night to the fortress, where the French High Command has vowed to hold out as long as possible.

But the French High Command is intent on handling the current phase of the battle for Indo-China with great prudence, informed sources here stated. With General Glap's forces outnumbering the 170,000 men of the French Expeditionary Corps in North Vietnam, the C-in-C cannot afford to make the slightest slip about the utilisation of his limited reserves.

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Adenauer Urges EDC Ratification in 1954

BONN, Wednesday (Reuters).—West German Chancellor Adenauer said in a New Year message to his Party today that Germans would be deeply disappointed if 1954 did not bring the ratification of the West German-Allied treaties, and with it German independence.

Dr. Adenauer was writing in the Christian Democratic press service. Any further delay in ratifying the treaties, the European Army pact under which German contingents will join the planned West European army, and the Bonn Convention under which West Germany regains near sovereignty, would spell considerable dangers for Europe, he said.

West Germans welcome the forthcoming four-power meeting at Berlin because they know that only through such a meeting can their dream of reunion, peace and freedom be attained. They had done all they could to bring about this meeting, and could justifiably look upon it as a success of their policy.

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PROFILE—Sir Walter Monckton

GREAT Britain has been narrowly saved from a railway strike over Christmas, and the attention of the public has been turned to Sir Walter Monckton, Minister of Labour, who still faces demands for higher pay by five million British workers in a number of key industries. Negotiations are scheduled for the first week in January, and the position will have to be clarified by January 15 unless the trade unions' ban on overtime is to come into force.

As long as organized labour officially gives its united support to the other political party, a Conservative Minister of Labour is bound to be in an invidious position. He is more exposed than any of his colleagues because his success depends not on administrative ability or even statesmanlike vision, but on gaining the confidence of a group that consists of his political opponents. Today, if he fails his Government falls.

It came as a surprise when in forming his first post-war Administration Sir Winston Churchill assigned this post to a lawyer with a little political experience and only a few months. Monckton's political inexperience in fact gave him the advantage with the Trade Unionists who had no political past to live down.

There is indeed no reason why Sir Walter Monckton should be closely associated with Toryism, old or new. He is a Conservative because of family and background, rather than out of deep political conviction, and throughout his life he has sought to avoid identification with classes or classes. Someone who in the same year represented the Nizam of Hyderabad and seven workers' groups for striking is not easy to type politically.

Distinguished Lawyer Monckton has built up his reputation as a lawyer, not a politician, and when he took office he was considered the most distinguished member of the Bar. It remains his ambition to become Lord Chief Justice. His career represents a somewhat new path to success. He has not made his reputation primarily as a great orator in the tradition of Marshall Hall, Edward Clarke or Norman Birkett; rather, he has made a career out of conciliatory persuasion and settlement. He has never appeared as a terrifying figure brooding witness or hypnotizing jurist, but rather as a friendly mediator who has helped to get the complicated machinery of the Law to work to everyone's satisfaction.

Largely as the result of his success this is now being established as the new path to legal eminence; the question remains whether it is also to be the new form of politics. Sir Winston Churchill's election in 1945 perhaps marked the end of the old crusading tradition in politics, which reached its apex in Gladstone's Midlothian campaign. It was followed by the quiet firebrand chat manner in which Monckton could easily succeed.

So far he has had few failures to contend with since he was born into a well-to-do family in Kent almost 63 years ago. At Harrow and Balliol he was a brilliant student, and when the acting Prime Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, rose to speak at a meeting of the Jewish National Fund in Tel Aviv this week, he found himself faced with the delicate task of speaking after Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who had just strongly objected to Mr. Ben Gurion's reiterated stand on the question of a Zionist, Mr. Sharett then began with a story of a not-too-smart student of Jewish lineage, who, for the purposes of an examination, had learned the names of all the biblical kings, for he could not comprehend any issues of substance. However, at the examination he was asked to record the names but to comment on the differences between the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. The student wrote that he would refrain from comparing such great personalities so as not to offend anyone, but would instead list all the names of the kings of Israel. And I shall take the same course," Mr. Sharett said, and proceeded to list the great contributions the Jewish National Fund had made toward the building of the country.

MR. Neville Laski, Q.C., distinguished leader of Anglo-Jewry at present on a visit here, has also had difficulty in finding his way between the two personalities. He told us that during a stay in the U.S. he was always referred to as "the brother of Harold" and "the father of Margherita" (who, by the way, once graced the book page of this newspaper with her delightful review). Finally he decided and claimed to be treated as an entity in his own right. The following day a Boston paper carried a headline: "VILLAGE LIKES HAROLD".

A THOROUGH idea of Jordan's obscurity in the matter of crossing and recrossing the armistice line has been conveyed to the first group of Austrian pilgrims to visit the Holy Land since 1922. The party of 47 pilgrims, headed by Monsignor Johann Kometter, a professor of the University of Vienna, planned to reach Cyprus in the "Negus" and to fly from there to Kalandia. However, the strongest wind in years made the crossing impossible on the open roadstead of Limassol. After the Negus's captain, for whom the pilgrims have the highest regard, had held up the ship for hours hoping for the storm to subside, the pilgrims had to celebrate Midnight Mass on board the ship, instead of in Bethlehem. But the crew entertained the pious travellers at a special dinner, and some of them described that strange Christmas under the blue-white flag as the highlight of the journey and an unforgettable experience.

SINCE their arrival in Haifa, the pilgrims have toured the country, visiting the Galilean shrines and settlements. At a Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz the pilgrims engaged with the settlers in a debate on the relative merits of religion versus "free thought". The discussion ended in a draw but, when it was resumed in a neighbouring town, a full agreement was reached. Once in Jerusalem the pilgrims were informed that they were welcome in the Old City, but would not be allowed to return to their ship. This puts the pilgrims in a difficult situation, and the Jordanians do not show some good will on a second appeal, the party must either forgo their pilgrimage to the holy places or charter a plane from Amman to Europe, thus imposing considerable financial hardship on some of the pilgrims, who had saved for years to make this tour.



made an easy reputation as a wit, an intellect and a wicket keeper. He had many undergraduate friends, including the then Prime Minister, and was a popular President of the Union in 1913. On coming down he married the daughter of another well-known family, but his intention to read for the Bar was interrupted by the outbreak of war.

Monckton served in the Army throughout the war, though he never mentions it even in his biographical notes, and won the M.C. for conspicuous gallantry. It was not till 1919, with a son and a daughter to support, that he entered on his career at the Bar. He showed a nature that can make and keep friendships for life. He was soon the centre of a gay group of young and intelligent people. Such friends also brought him work, and it was his old Oxford friend the Prince of Wales who gave him the post of Secretary-General to the Duchy of Cornwall. Others brought him into contact with several Indian Princes, including the Nizam of Hyderabad.

His reputation as a scrupulous arbitrator, possessed of judicial fairness but without the usual gravity of a judge, brought him several minor public appointments, but Monckton did not come into the public eye till the Abdication crisis.

The crisis showed him at his best. In a deeply emotional situation he was always cool and detached; during an infinity of secret negotiations he was utterly discreet and never at a loss for conciliatory ideas; in an unprecedented legal and constitutional impasse he found a simple way of drafting the dignified and comprehensive instrument of Abdication.

Above all in a time of bitter conflict of wills he remained the trusted friend of all. He was King Edward's representative, but Baldwin trusted him implicitly. A few days after the Abdication, King George VI sent for him to his Privy Council, and there dubbed him the first Knight of the new reign; but Monckton was also the only member of the Privy Council to attend the Duke of Windsor's marriage to Mrs. Simpson.

Sir Walter was now a public figure and it was no surprise to find him as one of the first lawyers called into the public service at the outbreak of war. In the Ministry of Information, as Director of Censorship and later as Director General, he made his mark as a man of peace and order into an organization that always tottered on the brink of chaos. His combination of ad-

ministrative ability with sufficient political shrewdness to avoid the pitfalls of official publicity, led the Prime Minister to send him to Cyprus to try to sort out the middle into which public relations had fallen there. Again in a short time Monckton was successful and became the trusted adviser of the politically tough British Ambassador, Sir Miles Lampson. Though it was the Ambassador who cleared to take two weeks to the Abdin Palace to "persuade" King Ferook to make Nehas Pasha Prime Minister, it was Monckton who prepared the alternative way out for the King. Thus, as he is fond of recalling, he established a record as the only man to write abdication statements for two Kings, though his second client waited ten years before using it.

Towards the end of the war Sir Walter returned to the Bar and seemed set on becoming a Judge, but his friends wished to make use of him in politics. Reluctantly he became Solicitor-General in the Chamberlain Government (without a seat in Parliament) and also undertook to head the British delegation on the war reparations which went to Moscow. Not even his conciliatory charm could budge the Russians and the conference failed, but the unaccommodated Sir Walter had Monckton with a desire one day to become Ambassador in Moscow and crack the Russian nut.

"Late Start" In February, 1931, an absolutely safe Conservative seat fell vacant with the death of Oliver Stanley, and it was at once allotted to Sir Walter Monckton. He was elected and had the rare honour of being introduced to the House of Commons by Winston Churchill. Though he was already 60 he was marked out for high office, which he received eight months later.

As a conciliator, Sir Walter Monckton has so far proved remarkably successful, but now he is likely to be faced with the most difficult of all: the coal strike. As he well knows, a sharp rise in British wages without increased production might cause a warm heart and a cold mind to ruin British exports. Monckton, a genuinely modest man, would be the last person to suggest that he will be able to influence the course of events successfully. But his great assets—absolute honesty, natural sympathy, disinterestedness, a warm heart and a first-rate mind—remain assets of the community as a whole and authentically at his service.

O.F.N.S.

Pulp to Paper at New Hadera Mill

By DAN MENDELSON

THE recent opening in Hadera of the American Israel Paper Mill's first modern mill in the Middle East is a significant milestone in the industrial revolution which this country has been undergoing. The initial investment of \$2,250,000, and 11,125 sq. ft. could not be made without the assurance of optimism which is reflected in the entire set-up of the plant. American in its architectural idiom (and the accent of its young manager) it was "built for expansion."

Turning pulp into paper is a complex process and in Hadera required the construction of 1,600 metres of floor space on three levels of the main plant. The centre of the plant is the gigantic, 72 metres long, Fourdrinier-type paper-making machine on the third floor which can turn out as much as 15,000 tons of paper a year. Most of the essential requirements of the country today, the huge mill is a symmetrical sloped only to one side. By a quick and inexpensive operation the tall wall of one side of the building can be moved, the building erected in thickened cellulose content in the stems varies between 47 and 54 per cent, and they also have a fairly high percentage of carbohydrates content. At Ein Hatzefa, one takes much notice of these flourishing reeds which draw their water supply from the nearby spring, as well as from brackish underground waters. But soon, said the commander of the beautiful Negev outpost, more juncus will be sown.

Further south in the Araba, the Nahal settlement of Ein Radian, plans have been completed for putting wide stretches of the sandy plain under juncus "which grows due to its own pulp." Paper making starts with the feeding of the basic raw material, wood pulp, into a huge pulping pit in which the pulp is "digested" in a mixture of water and chemicals. It is then stored at one wing of the main plant and later workers load it on to a large conveyor which elevates it to the top floor and into the cavernous mouth of the digester.

There are two kinds of pulp: mechanical and chemical. Mechanical pulp is prepared by grinding wet wood against a grindstone and boiling the resultant ground material. Chemical pulp, which removes in a mixture of water and chemicals, is then stored at one wing of the main plant and later workers load it on to a large conveyor which elevates it to the top floor and into the cavernous mouth of the digester.

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Juncus Becoming Major Negev Crop

Juncus maritimus, a wild growing grass which thrives on salt water, is one of the major crops to be raised in the arid and barren lands of the Negev's Araba. This decision was taken last summer, after a Scottish paper mill and the Jerusalem Research Laboratories for Fibres and Pulp had found it highly suitable for the production of three types of paper: duplicator paper, a high-quality cream for printing paper, and strong cartridge paper. Experiments had continued for two years, but only last June, when the Israeli researchers felt that something could be done with juncus, did they set a trial assignment of 15 tons to the J. A. Weir Mill at Kilbeggie, in Scotland, for further tests.

At the oasis of Ein Hatzefa, 25 miles south of Be'er Sheva, juncus grows in abundance. It is a perennial plant which often grows higher than man, the stems reaching more than half a metre in thickness. Cellulose content in the stems varies between 47 and 54 per cent, and they also have a fairly high percentage of carbohydrates content. At Ein Hatzefa, one takes much notice of these flourishing reeds which draw their water supply from the nearby spring, as well as from brackish underground waters. But soon, said the commander of the beautiful Negev outpost, more juncus will be sown.

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width can be produced by A.I.P.M.'s Bertrams of Edinburgh machine. Smoothing grooves squeeze out surplus water from the rolling paper that presently moves between large, fast-moving drying cylinders. The paper then passes through a series of calendering rolls which press its surface smooth. An automatic coating machine sprays the paper's surface. At the "dry end" the paper is wound in rolls.

Water, quite clearly, is essential to paper making and the site of the mill was therefore largely determined by its availability. The mill uses about a million gallons of water daily. Communications, another essential consideration, are convenient since the mill is close to both the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway and rail line.

High Prices Paper is produced most economically by an integrated mill, i.e. one which produces its own raw materials (mostly from its own forests preferably). A ton of mechanical pulp produced this year currently costs about \$14 in American intermediate power while the A.I.P.M. pays \$15 per ton of about 15,000 tons from Finland. The American price per ton of chemical pulp is \$35, for which the Haifa mill pays \$15. These high prices will have to be sustained as long as this country is unable to produce its own pulp. Paper made here now would obviously be expensive because of the high cost of pulp plus the cost of import of chemicals from Germany and the U.S., and the usual high local costs of operation.

The main benefit to the country's economy cannot be lower prices for paper. The short-term benefit is in the annual saving of an estimated \$750,000 to \$1m. in foreign currency which represents the difference between purchasing at stable prices of finished paper from abroad and the purchase of the raw materials for their production here. Other benefits are the possibility of stocking raw materials purchased at low prices in the world markets for emergency periods (in the worst case this might be forced by a paper shortage at outrageously high prices) and assuring the local economy stable paper in the event of a paper shortage. The advantages of producing pulp in Israel are obvious. But creating a supply of wood, or other suitable vegetation, presents complex problems. Meanwhile the A.I.P.M. and other agencies are carrying out experiments to determine the possibility of using local raw materials. Two outstanding possibilities are juncus which grows wild in the South and eucalyptus trees, suitable for wood pulp. Varied and lengthy laboratory experiments are being carried out here abroad and the possibilities of adequate afforestation destined to be out for the mill also require much research and planning.

Water and chemicals are poured into the pulping pit. A slurry of pulp to three per cent concentration of pulp in it flows from the digester into a reservoir, called the "pond" whence the pulp now in a one per cent slurry is fed onto a screen. This is the so-called "wet end" of the paper making machine. At this end the pulp enters the 72-metre-long road which turns it into paper at the machine's "dry end." The screen moves forward on an endless evenly spaced rubber roller, and the fibres come together by constant regulated shaking from side to side. The water drains through the screen and flows into a tank from which it is pumped and re-used to extract the fragments of pulp in it.

The pulp is prevented from flowing over the two edges of the wire by an endless "deckle" strap on each side, made of vulcanized rubber, and the distance between them may be fixed at will to determine the width of the paper produced. Rolls up to 3.25 metres in diameter are produced.

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KEEPING POSTED

WHEN the acting Prime Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, rose to speak at a meeting of the Jewish National Fund in Tel Aviv this week, he found himself faced with the delicate task of speaking after Dr. Nahum Goldmann, who had just strongly objected to Mr. Ben Gurion's reiterated stand on the question of a Zionist, Mr. Sharett then began with a story of a not-too-smart student of Jewish lineage, who, for the purposes of an examination, had learned the names of all the biblical kings, for he could not comprehend any issues of substance. However, at the examination he was asked to record the names but to comment on the differences between the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. The student wrote that he would refrain from comparing such great personalities so as not to offend anyone, but would instead list all the names of the kings of Israel. And I shall take the same course," Mr. Sharett said, and proceeded to list the great contributions the Jewish National Fund had made toward the building of the country.

MR. Neville Laski, Q.C., distinguished leader of Anglo-Jewry at present on a visit here, has also had difficulty in finding his way between the

